

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## LifeWay leader big fan of Arthur Flake

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Final in a series

Mississippi Baptists have every right to be proud of Arthur Flake, the First Church, Winona, staffer who created the modern Sunday School ministry in the early 20th century that is still followed today by Protestant churches around the world.

Fans of Flake's Formula, as his program came to be known, are not limited to Mississippi Baptists, however. Just visit the office of Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, and a longtime Flake devotee.

A whole wall of Draper's formal office is something of a shrine to Arthur Flake that includes photos of Flake, historical documents, and other memorabilia.

Flake left First Church, Winona, to work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, as LifeWay was then known.

"After all these years, Flake's Formula is still the basic way to get [Sunday School work] done," said Draper.

"Flake would go into a meeting and write 'W-O-R-K' on a blackboard," Draper said. "That's what it takes. It's not hard to get people to an event, but it's Sunday School that will

get them back again, to involve them in an accountability group. Sunday School ties them into the church."

Before assuming his duties as president, Draper saw that LifeWay had access to all Baptist churches. "I saw a real opportunity here to influence the churches for the best," he pointed out.

"I've always been a Sunday School person," Draper said. "Matter of fact, whenever we had people join our church, I had them stand at the front with their Sunday School teachers."

"The strength of the Southern Baptist Convention has been the Sunday School," Draper stressed.

"Over 40,000 churches purchase materials from us. We can make a difference."

Draper took a few moments to reflect on the state of the Sunday School — where it has been and where it is going.

"There are some things we're monitoring closely," Draper said. "One is a move away from a consistent study of the Bible with open groups.



FLAKE FOLLOWER — Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, holds a copy of Mississippi Baptist Arthur Flake's personal Bible containing Flake's original notes. The notes formed the basis of Flake's Formula, a five-step method for growth through the Sunday School that is still revered today in Protestant churches around the world. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

The problem is that we can't bring new folks in at the middle of a study such as Masterlife. That has been the great value of Sunday School: you can bring in people anytime into an open group and know they'll be welcomed.

"You could once enroll three lost people in Sunday School and you'd win one. Now you can enroll just two people and

one of them will be saved, but less are being enrolled. My anticipation is that the way folks do Sunday School is changing, and I fear there are going to be less open groups.

"Sunday School is to be evangelistic. We want to always provide a study where a lost person can come in and feel welcome."

Draper cautioned, "We have to watch out for a move away from dated material. We will always need open classes."

With all the options in the marketplace for Sunday School curricula, what makes LifeWay unique?

"We're the only material that keeps us plugged in to Southern Baptist Convention cooperative efforts," Draper stated. "We are always going to be doctrinally specific. We still do field service in a different way, but as much as ever. We maintain the integrity of the message, and we are always evangelistic."

Draper had high praise for Mississippi Baptists.

"Did you know that Mississippi has provided more Southern Baptist leaders than any other state? Mississippi has always been on the cutting edge of Baptist work. You've provided us with leaders such as Jerry Rankin, Morris Chapman, and James Sullivan, in addition to Arthur Flake."

"We just pray that you continue to provide good leaders for all Baptists," Draper said.

## Executive Committee selects new

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board approved the

appointments of two new Baptist Student Union (BSU) directors beginning April 13. The new directors are



Church, Meridian (1997-2001); student minister at First Church, Picayune (1993-97); and bivocational youth minister at South Louisville Church, Louisville (1987-92).

He also served two summers while in college as a counselor and instructor at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, for Royal Ambassador and Baptist Young Men camps.

Davis holds a master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary (1996) and a bachelor of business administration from Mississippi State University in Hattiesburg. He is married and has four sons.

Wallace will be

Delta Community Church, Moorhead. He has served in youth, activities, and evangelism pastor at Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, from 2000 to present. Prior to that, he served as youth and activities minister at Crowder Church, Crowder (1996-2000); youth minister at First Church, Harrisonville, Mo. (1993-96); and summer youth minister at First Church, Fulton (1993). He also served twice as a BSU summer missionary.

He holds a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and a bachelor of science degree from Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

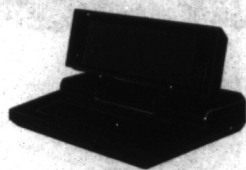


Wallace

Board to fill the vacant position of George Meadows, who retired from the pastorate of First Church, Itta Bena, and moved to Rankin County.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**

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# IHL trustees: a power unto themselves

**Y**ou don't count. That's the message coming from the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), in reference to the recently-approved gambling degree program to be offered this fall at a Mississippi public university.

"I don't anticipate any organized, structured efforts (of protest)," said IHL trustee Amy Whitten of Oxford, as quoted in an April 21 article by Nell Luter Floyd on the web site of The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson.

Whitten, an attorney, made that statement while serving as moderator for a panel discussion during an April 21 gambling conference at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, which along with most of the state's other public universities is expected to soon join the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg in offering gambling courses.

Many Mississippians will probably be surprised to learn that the Mississippi Gaming Commission also held an official meeting that day at the university's School of Law — a dangerously symbolic blending of the state's legal, political, educational, and gambling complexes.

"There has been some confusion on the gaming issue," says IHL's Sarah Nicholas. "Please be clear that the course is a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Tourism with an emphasis in Casino and Resort Management and Restaurant Management. These courses will teach students how to manage, at the executive level, resorts which may or may not include casinos. The classes will not teach students how to gamble or how to deal cards or throw dice. The classes will not deal with working on the floor of a casino. The classes are specifically targeted at training executive level personnel."

According to Nicholas, every trustee voted in favor of granting the USM gambling

degree except Bill Crawford, Carl Nicholson, and Bryce Griffis, who were absent from the meeting. Considering that Mississippi law specifically prohibits the teaching of gambling-related courses in the state's public schools, IHL trustees had to engage in some fancy legal footwork to approve USM's degree program. The trustees asked the Mississippi Attorney General for his legal opinion on whether they could go around Mississippi law and when his opinion didn't arrive on the trustee's timetable, they went ahead and declared themselves above the law anyway.

See, you really don't count with IHL trustees — and neither do your elected state legislators who, after all, only followed the will of the people of Mississippi in originally prohibiting gambling-related classes in public schools.

To compound the outrageous conduct of IHL trustees in circumventing the people's elected representatives, nary a legislator has yet raised as much as a whimper about this insult to their constitutional authority. Quite the contrary — that collective sigh of relief you're hearing is coming from legislators nervous about having a pro-gambling vote of any kind on their record. With unelected IHL trustees willing to do the dirty work, legislators are off the hook.

Perhaps Mississippi Baptists can remind Whitten and other IHL trustees that there is indeed opposition to teaching gambling

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\*Information including e-mail addresses for individual legislators can be obtained at [www.ls.state.ms.us](http://www.ls.state.ms.us)

courses in our public schools. Perhaps Mississippi Baptists can also convince the state's lawmakers to have enough backbone to question this breathtaking challenge to the both Mississippi Constitution and their authority under the Constitution.

Finally, Mississippi Baptists can put action into their words by staying away from the abominable tables of fortune in Mississippi and elsewhere, regardless of the fabulous entertainment and unmatched buffets.

That's the only way people are ever going to take us seriously.

**F**or the past several weeks, I've been involved with the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in producing a revised and updated version of Mississippi Baptist Arthur Flake's Building a Standard Sunday School. Flake was a fascinating fellow; a true pioneer. Does what he taught still work?

There are many folks in church circles who say that Sunday School is past its prime, that in our postmodern society there are better, more effective ways of reaching and discipling people. Former Southwestern Seminary President Ken Hemphill even wrote a book, *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*, that addressed this issue. His contention was that while some might think of the traditional Sunday morning pre-worship Bible school as an outdated anachronism, there is plenty of life and value there yet.

In *The Purpose-Driven Life*, Rick Warren states, "Many Sunday School classes and small groups are stuck in superficiality and have no clue as to what it's like to experience genuine fellowship. Authentic fellowship is not superficial, surface-level chit-chat. It is genuine, heart-to-heart, sometimes gut-level, sharing. It happens

## In my view:



### Arthur Flake's legacy

By Tony Martin, Associate Editor  
*The Baptist Record*

when people get honest about who they are and what is happening in their lives."

How true. Many years ago, I had a Sunday School teacher named Mr. Bailey. Frankly, Mr. Bailey wasn't much of a teacher. He tended to read the lesson, just droning along as we seventh grade boys shifted and squirmed in our seats. Sometimes we were even too bored to cut up.

What strikes me, after all these years, is knowing that Mr. Bailey played an integral part in my Christian growth not because he introduced me to the deeper truths of the faith, but because he liked us. He took us fishing. He prayed for us regularly and by name. In short, he cared, and as a result we responded to him. He was an adult confidant in things about which we weren't comfortable talking to our parents.

I'd contend that Sunday School — or other small-group Bible study — is essential to our growth as Christians. You might worship in a crowd, but you can't belong to something unless it's small enough for you to feel like you're safe.

Flake understood this. He realized that any church, from the rural family church to the urban megachurch, had potential to do more than it was doing. He knew that there was always the opportunity to enlarge the ministry of any church. The Sunday School could reach people by staying small, providing those units which offered a sense of belonging. He saw the necessity of training workers — a leader might be an excellent theologian or Bible student, but if they weren't able to work with and love their people, then change would never take place. Flake

wanted leaders to understand this. He knew that space had to be provided for groups to meet, whether it was a home living room or a converted closet in the church building. Finally, he knew that there was a biblical mandate to keep going; that there was never a time for a church to sit back and say, "mission accomplished." Ideally, people would be so excited about what was happening in their classes, and they felt so at home, then asking others to join them would be spontaneous and heartfelt.

Flake's principles have stood the test of time. They are adaptable to the most traditional settings as well as the most innovative. Whether meeting in a traditional age-graded class, or in a cell group meeting in a home, we are all beneficiaries of this Mississippian's pioneering work.

It's easy to credit Flake's credentials as a businessman, and his expertise learned in the marketplace, for the success in his work. Flake himself would be quick to point out that it wasn't his personal abilities or skills that sustained him. Rather, it was his absolute conviction that God could use the Sunday School to impact a lost world that kept him passionate.

May God grant us that same level of passion as we serve Him.



# Christians protest Viet government actions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Socialist Republic of Vietnam admitted April 19 that the nation's troubled Central Highlands region had again seen unrest following the protest of thousands of ethnic minority Christians in Dak Lak and Gia Lai provinces April 10.

Government officials said in the official newspaper of the Communist Party, that tribesmen, called Montagnards or Dega people, had been seduced into holding illegal demonstrations by "ill-intentioned forces outside Vietnam."

The Associated Press and Reuters both reported that the peaceful demonstrations intended to draw attention to the government's abuses of religious freedom and the confiscation of the Montagnard's ancestral lands.

Numerous ethnic minority Christians were beaten and jailed by Vietnamese police during the peaceful protests in the cities of Buon Ma Thout and Pleiku, according to AP. The Montagnard Foundation, an ethnic minority advocacy group based in South Carolina, said that six ethnic minority Christians were killed and more than 20 were missing in Buon Ma Thout alone. Police were reportedly searching coffee plantations with dogs to flush out some of those who fled the protest.

The admission that problems again exist between the Vietnamese and the largely Protestant ethnic minority tribes came after two days of fierce denials that anything out of the ordinary had occurred over the Easter holidays in the region. An April 16 statement issued by the Vietnamese embassy in Washington, D.C., claimed that "all aspects of life" in the area remained normal.

That statement was issued in response to allegations by the Montagnard Foundation and



**MORE PEACEFUL TIME** — Montagnard men in Vietnam's Central Highlands carve a drum from wood for a village festival, in a more peaceful time before official repression began to escalate. Many among the ethnic minority have forsaken animism and ancestor worship to become Christians, and the Vietnam government is seeking to eradicate their growing faith. (BP special photo)

Human Rights Watch (HRW), a New York-based organization, that several hundred ethnic minority Christians had been abused and killed in the recent demonstrations. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Le Dung said from Hanoi that western advocacy groups were guilty of "ill-willed fabrication and exaggeration" about the persecution of ethnic minority Christians in the region.

Dung told the Vietnam News Agency that there were protests in the Central Highlands, but that the ethnic minority people were responsible for the violence.

"The truth is that ... some extremist elements in localities in Dak Lak and Gia Lai provinces, with external incitement ... induced, deceived and forced the local people to carry out demonstrations," Dung said. He also claimed that "extremists" had looted some stores, used "dangerous weapons to beat on-duty officers" and

destroyed public works and property in some areas. "More seriously they even dared attack commune headquarters, capture local officials and display banners demanding the establishment of a 'Dega state.'"

A special state for the Dega people is the goal of the Montagnard Foundation, which frequently advocates inside the country for democracy and logs cases of the religious persecution and murder by the Vietnamese government. The organization even described the impending protests on its Web site April 9, a full day before the peaceful demonstrations began.

Access to the Central Highlands has been forbidden since the protests, but officials with the United States embassy in Hanoi are asking to be admitted to the area for an inspection tour. A group from the embassy was on a regular inspection tour of the area when they were turned away. Officials in the area said the region was "unsuitable" to foreigners, and so officials cancelled regularly scheduled flights and tourist visits to the area.

Vietnamese police, or Cong An, have been stationed in the homes of ethnic minority Christians to prohibit assemblies and enforce house arrests, HRW's spokesman Brad Adams said. Cambodia also sealed its border with the Central Highlands provinces in order to prevent the passage of what it termed "illegal migrants," or ethnic minority Christians who wish to escape the crackdown.

Nikola Mihajlovic, a representative for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to Cambodia, said in a statement April 13 that 59 Montagnards had crossed the Vietnamese-Cambodian border since January 2004, indicating that persecution has increased for ethnic minority Christians.



**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

**THE BAPTIST  
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## Persecution panned

WASHINGTON (BP) — American religious and government leaders joined Vietnamese refugees and immigrants April 21 in calling for an end to Vietnam's repression of ethnic minority Christians. About 250 Montagnards gathered at an outdoor rally on Capitol Hill to protest the communist government's reportedly violent suppression of Easter demonstrations by Christians in the Central Highlands of the Southeast Asian country. At least 10 Montagnards — the name given to the largely Protestant ethnic tribes in the Central Highlands — were killed and hundreds injured on Easter weekend, based on eyewitness reports included in an April 22 news release from Human Rights Watch (HRW). Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) told the Montagnards at the rally the action against their people was a "very egregious escalation of the butchery and the hate" by communist leaders. "They want to stamp out the Montagnard faith," Smith said. "The government of Vietnam needs to be held to account." Smith joined Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), in calling for the State Department to pressure Hanoi to reverse its repressive policy. In a statement read at the rally, Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission said such treatment of the Montagnards "violates every standard of civilized behavior. Outrage is not even an adequate word to describe my response to the brutal treatment. It is time for those who cherish religious freedom and fundamental human rights to come to the aid of these oppressed people."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Jay Richardson is called as pastor of First Church, Greenville. He is a native of Leland and a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served the Drew Church congregation.

### 20 years ago

During spring break, seven William Carey College students join forces with nine University of Southern Mississippi students to discover the culture shock of Houston, Texas. Along with Carey's director of religious activities, Tom Hearon, they spent five days working in three Baptist mission centers organized by Southern Baptist Home Missionary Mildred McWhorter.

### 50 years ago

Prior to the Southern Baptist Convention, discussions take place as to whether the name of the Southern Baptist Convention should be changed in view of the large number of Southern Baptists outside of the southern states. D. C. Stringfellow, pastor of First Church, Hartselle, Ala., suggests Missionary Baptist Convention as a name worth considering.

## BMC slates graduation for May 1

Blue Mountain College (BMC) will conduct its 131st Annual Commencement Exercises on May 1, at 10:00 a.m. in Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium on the Baptist-affiliated school's campus in Blue Mountain. BMC trustee Thad Moore, pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Church in Meridian, will be the commencement speaker.

For more information, contact BMC at (662) 685-4771. E-mail: cward@bmc.edu.

BMC is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



## Churches to link for Day of Prayer

Three churches in the Fondren Hill area of northeast Jackson are joining hands to form an interdenominational observance of the National Day of Prayer on May 6, according to Tyler Pigott Jr., pastor of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

"Fondren Presbyterian Church, Woodland Hills Baptist Church, and St. Luke United Methodist Church pastors will lead their congregations in a joint participation in the National Day of Prayer," Pigott said.

The three churches will sponsor a "prayer booth" on the Duling School lawn on Duling Avenue. All Christians are invited to visit the booth, place their objects of prayer in a "suggestion box," and join fellow Christians in commitment to private prayer for requests that are placed in the box.

The three churches have, for many years, worshiped together for the traditional Union Thanksgiving Service. The joint involvement in the National Day of Prayer this year will be a new initiative.

"The joint engagement of Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian churches in the Fondren Hill community is an effort to lift to the Lord our collective prayers for His guidance and His intervention in the affairs of our community, state and nation.

"We three pastors urge committed Christians to join us in fervent prayer on this day," Pigott said.

For more information, contact Pigott at (601) 981-1441. E-mail: Pastor@whbcjackson.org.

## A CHANGE OF NAME

Jack Graham, the President of the Southern Baptist Convention, has proposed that a committee be enlisted to study the possibility of changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention. While that is not a new idea, it is an idea that continues to surface and maybe an idea whose time has come. Up until now, I have refrained from writing about or discussing at great length whether or not this is a good idea. There are issues on both sides of the question that seem to have validity and value. In fact, I have suggested to some people that maybe the wise thing to do would be to wait until the committee is in place and even to look at the possibilities or suggestions of new names.

It is hard to reject and maybe not wise to reject what you do not know. For me personally, like many others, I am sure the rich heritage of our historical beginnings and blessings are something to be celebrated. When Southern Baptists gathered to form their new convention in 1845, it was then and continues to be a movement built on the Word of God and fired by evangelism and missions. From humble beginnings we sought to honor the Lord and to reach and teach as many people in our land as possible. God has blessed the effort. We have grown not because of our name so much as for our passion.

On the other hand, I am certainly aware that we are no longer a regional group of believers located in the South or strongly in the Southeast. While we are not large in



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

numbers in some other states, you can find Southern Baptist churches, Southern Baptist missionaries, and Southern Baptist work in every state of our land. Beyond that, Southern Baptists have, under the call and guidance of the Lord, gone into almost 200 countries and people groups around the world to tell the Good News of Jesus!

I can understand that in some places the name attached to the Southern part of the United States may not fit the provincial thinking of an area. Go up into the Northeast and the Northwest, across the northern tier of our nation, and Southern speech, practices, and history does not resonate well with much of the population. Certainly not everyone recoils from hearing "Southern" and doesn't like it, but some do and it creates a problem.

I wonder, though, if you removed the "Southern" and just leave Baptist, would there be a reaction from some folks? No doubt there would be some.

I have watched with interest as companies have dealt with the same issue as our Convention has, and some have done nothing about it. As I drive around Jackson I see signs with Virginia College on it.

Burlington Northern has a railroad here. AmSouth Bank and Gulf Guaranty continue to do well and even the Western Sizzler has lots of folks who still eat there. I don't want to belabor this point, but Mercedes Benz, Toyota, and even Nissan seem to be doing well selling their cars.

Now, with all that said, let me point to one other thought. Is there something better? Is there a focal point? An idea? A concept? What better encompasses our history and our future? Is there something that might move us away from geographical status and embrace other areas that are more closely attuned to our work and our calling? This is no easy thought process nor is it easy to move away from the emotional attachments of 150 years, but maybe there is a better idea. While our history is found in the South, our future is found encircling the globe, and our eternity is at the feet of Jesus. Since we are Baptist and the largest Baptist group in the world, why not just be "The Baptist Convention?"

It is certainly a time when we need to think, pray, and seek the Lord before we lock in to all of our views for the future. For the past, we have to be grateful, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that God is moving into the future. From here on, into eternity, everything that is going to happen in this world and the world to come will be in the future. Maybe, just possibly, there could be a change that would fit our feelings, our future, our focus, and honor the Lord in the process!

## STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Overt, called **Nathaniel Blackledge** as pastor effective March 7. Blackledge graduated with a BA degree from NOBTS and is currently working on his masters degree. He served as youth minister at First Church, Myrick, and Pleasant Grove Church, Laurel, prior to coming to Overt.

New Hope Church, Sumrall, has called **Charles R. Broome** as pastor. He previously pastored at Victory Church, Bassfield, Rocky Hill Church, Smith, and Clear Springs Church, Smith.

[www.mbcj.org](http://www.mbcj.org)

## HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

**Midway, Meridian:** Revival May 2-5; Ken Smith, Leesburg, Fla., evangelist; Randy Wood, First, Verona, worship; Keith Grubbs, pastor.

**Brush Creek, Corinth:** Revival May 2-7; normal Sunday hours; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gregg Thomas, Parkway, Houston, evangelist; Carrol Talley, pastor.

**Brewer, Richton:** Layman's Revival April 30-May 2; Eri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Kenny Odom, Calvary, Waynesboro, speaking; Terry Dewitt, music; all are invited.

**Mashulaville, Macon:** Homecoming May 2; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; Bobby Parish, speaker; all are invited.

**Union, Mayton:** Homecoming May 2; worship, 10:45 a.m.; John Taylor, speaker; Born Again Gospel Quartet, afternoon entertainment; Larry Russell, pastor.

**Calvary, Louisville:** Memorial Sunday, May 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; a covered dish will be served at noon; Junior Davis, Friendship, Sturgis, speaker;

Missy Vance, the Jimmy Mett's family, and Kevin Ryals, bringing messages; Charles Moody, pastor; all are welcome.

**County Line, Crystal Springs:** May 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; Dave Qualls, interim pastor, speaker.

**North Columbia, Columbia:** May 2-5; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Summit, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; all are welcome; nursery provided; Mike Greenn, pastor.

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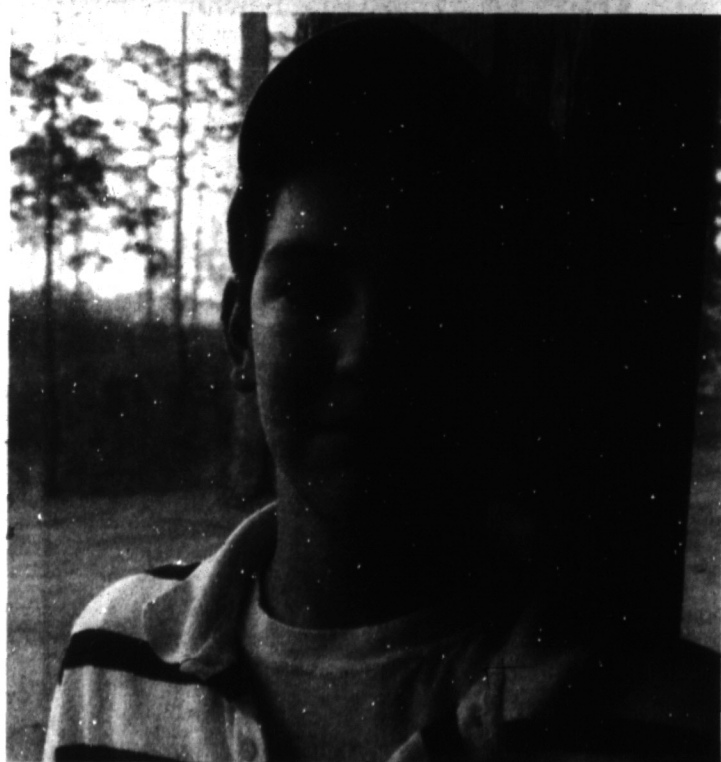
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*“ Our children typically have endured enough loss, heartache and misfortune to make it understandable to have lost hope for a brighter future. Yet, the vast majority of them keep struggling and working toward that very hope. My feelings for these children go far beyond mere admiration. In a time when some people hold sport figures and celebrities up as heroes, I have the privilege of working daily with real heroes. These children, who work hour by hour, day by day in a world that makes no sense to them, are nothing less than heroes. ”*

Dr. Randy Cotton

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## S.A.F.E. Spiritual

## Safe T

The Baptist Children's Village is set apart from most other child care agencies because of the special attention given to the spiritual welfare of the children entrusted to our care. Our approach to meeting this very important need involves asking 4 questions:

### 1. What is the child's past with both church and Christian experiences?

Sometimes children come into our care having had a positive church and Christian experience. We want to support these children as they continue to grow in their Christian walk. Unfortunately, there are many children that come to us having had little or no exposure to Christ or the church. Some may even have come from a background where their church experiences may be connected to a cult. Further, there are some children that have a distorted view of Christianity because of past experiences with significant people in their lives who claim to be Christians. The responsibility of teaching children who pass through this ministry and exposing them to the truth of Christ is not taken lightly.

*"The more I can expose them to the things of Christ the more likely they are to come to know Him and be more like Him", said Tim Chennault, Campus Pastor.*

### 2. Where are they right now spiritually?

Each child is visited one-on-one by qualified staff to determine where they are spiritually. A spiritual profile is completed on every child so that when staff meet to discuss a plan of care for that child, their spiritual needs will be discussed as part of that plan. By doing this profile the staff can access the child's spiritual needs and address those needs specifically.

### 3. Where do they want to be with the Lord and in life?

This gives the staff opportunity to sit down with the child to set goals and make plans for the future. Many times children come to The BCV without hope and certainly without trust. They blame God for taking their parents away and for letting these terrible things happen to them. They ask hard questions and want to know how a loving god could allow these things to happen.

"These questions are hard to answer, but we use the scriptures to teach God's love," said Rev. Chennault. The theme verse for this ministry is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope."

*Rev. Chennault said, "The hardest thing for me in this ministry is helping the children understand that they can have hope."*



### 4. What are we going to do to meet these goals?

This is where a plan is established to help each child meet the goals they have set. Each child's needs are very different. We do not try to fit the children in to our plan, but instead, we design a plan that is specific to each individual child. "We find ways to use their gifts," said Rev. Chennault.

The children have opportunities to participate in special activities at their host church and residents on The India Nunnery Campus can participate in small group Bible studies and worship services held on campus on Sunday afternoons. On Wednesday nights the service on The India Nunnery Campus is designed to be more youth oriented, and periodically guests are invited to lead in the service. Occasionally, we take the children to events around the state, and sometimes even out of state, that will benefit their spiritual growth.

Also, we use our ropes course to teach trust. During the late spring and early summer the children are lead through the challenges on the course. Many of the elements are designed to teach trust in themselves, others and ultimately Christ.

God is doing a great work at The Baptist Children's Village. Children are hearing the truth of Christ. They are shown unconditional love and are being taught that God has a special plan for them and that His plan is perfect and is to give them a future and a hope.

*"We are seeing children come to know the Lord almost weekly," said Rev. Chennault.*

This area of ministry has specific needs and prayer requests:

- ◆ Financial gifts are needed to bring the ropes course up to standard.
- ◆ NIV, NKJ or NLT Bibles are needed. (We give a Bible to every child that comes through The BCV—about 300 annually)
- ◆ Please pray for strength and wisdom for Rev. Tim Chennault and other spiritual leaders at The BCV as they present Christ to these precious children.
- ◆ Please pray for the children—that their hearts will be open to receive Christ.



*"I think we are doing God's work by planting seeds and spreading the Gospel."*

*David Lee, staff*



# CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

## Track <sup>S.A.F.E.</sup> *Academic*

Academic needs for our children are significant and varied. All our children throughout the state attend public schools in the community where their campus is located. Many BCV children need additional tutoring or remedial reading assistance to catch up to their grade level.

Chip Price of our staff explains, "We want to lead every child for success". Through volunteers

and volunteer donations The BCV has secured computers rich with software to evaluate each child to determine their academic strengths and weaknesses, and to help overcome deficiencies. The goal is to help every child develop grade level or beyond academic skills. Staff is adopting an interactive approach to preparing each child for academic success, enlisting volunteers to help tutor or enhance remedial reading skills.

## <sup>S.A.F.E.</sup> *Family*

While many of the children who reside at The Baptist Children's Village have a connection to their biological family, it is necessary for The BCV to become their family during this time of separation. We accomplish this by providing a structured environment where the children:

- ◆ Participate in study time in their cottage.
- ◆ Are required to help with chores around their cottage.
- ◆ Participate in a cottage devotion time everyday.
- ◆ Receive allowance weekly.
- ◆ Are given opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities outside of The BCV.
- ◆ Receive discipline based on a level system.
- ◆ Go on summer vacations or to other activities as a cottage.
- ◆ Eat meals together as a cottage.

*"We serve as parents to the children during this time of separation and provide for their basic needs as well as discipline and life skills. We provide Christian role models that recognize the hurts and deep needs of many of the children" said Peggy Taylor, Campus Life Director.*

Full-time, live-in, Christian Child Care Workers work directly with the children. They are there with them in the mornings when they get up and they are the ones who tuck them into bed at night. These Child Care Workers are on the front line of The BCV ministry. They help teach Christian values and restore families.

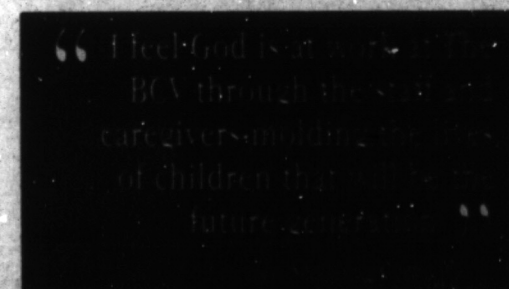
Mrs. Taylor explains, "We regard these child care workers as missionaries to children and families."

There is also an opportunity for Christian families in Mississippi to open their homes and become visiting families for the children in our care. A visiting family provides a home life environment for a child once or twice a month on a weekend or during the holidays. For more information on being a visiting family please contact the Clinical Services Department of The BCV.

## <sup>S.A.F.E.</sup> *Emotional*

Emotional support is an important and time intensive part of The Baptist Children's Village ministry. Every staff member works to encourage children, recognizing the voids left in their lives and their deep need to be loved. Counselors work to help heal and restore children who are hurting on many levels. Additional specialized help is available to residents through our clinical psychologist. All of these work together to positively effect every child for good and for God.

Dr. Randy Cotton, Clinical Psychologist for The BCV explains, "Our effort is not only to focus on spiritual healing, but also on the emotional and relational healing that Christ intended for each of our residents."



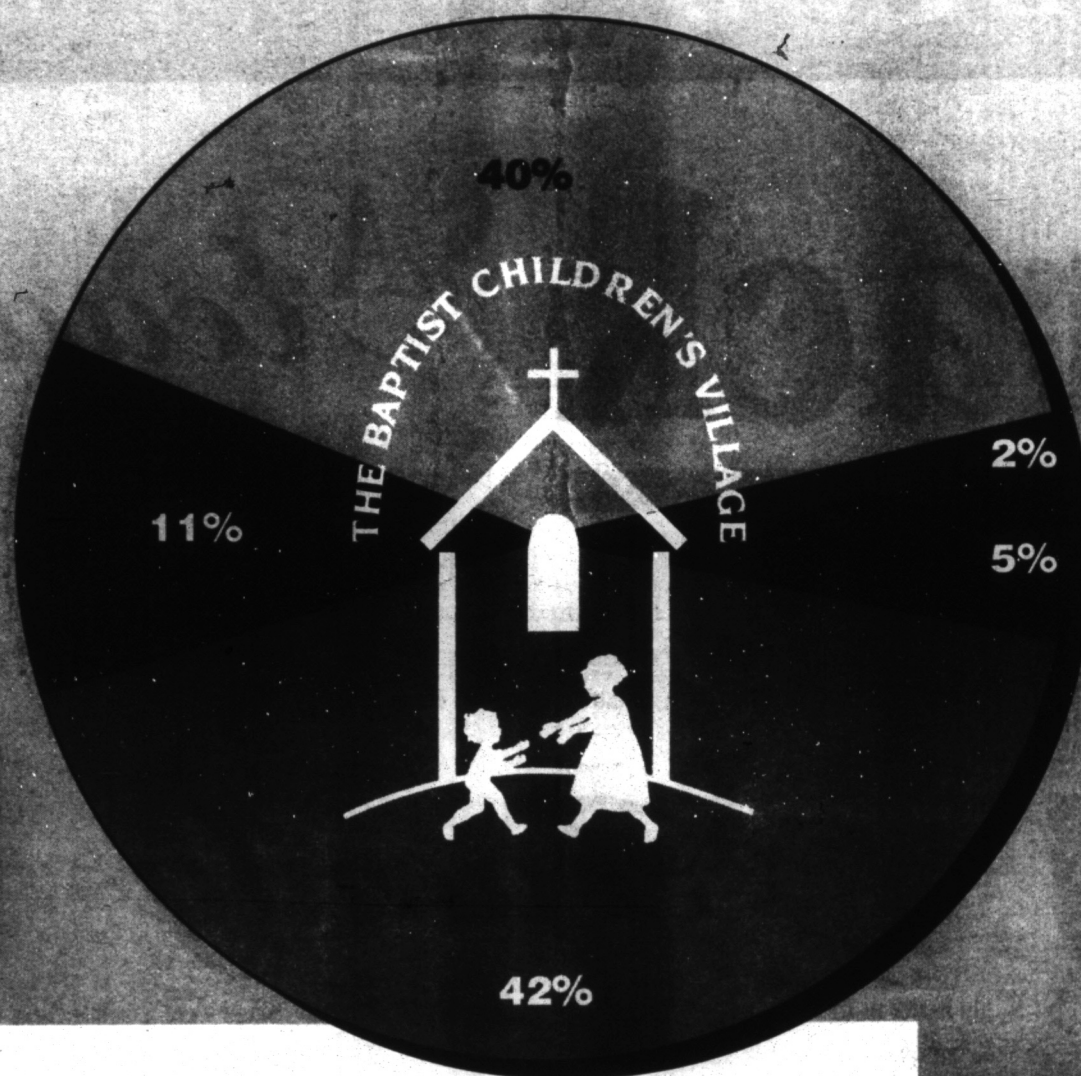


# How Are We Funded?

The Baptist Children's Village relies totally on generous gifts from God's people to provide for this ministry. God has chosen to use His people to sustain this ministry to children since 1897. We covet your prayers and your gifts and trust that He will continue to perpetuate His plan for The Baptist Children's Village ministry through His people so that He might be glorified each time a child is touched for Him.

“People should give not just their money, but their time and prayers. God tells us that whatever we do for the least of His children, we do for Him.”

America Jayroe (staff)



● **Individuals**

● **Churches**

● **Investment (endowments)**

● **Parental Support**

● **Cooperative Program**

## HONOR YOUR PARENTS

You may not be able to repay your parents for all they have done for you, but you can honor them with a gift to The Baptist Children's Village. This year, The BCV will send an acknowledgment to your special loved one as an honor/memorial on Mother's Day or Father's Day.

### Mother's Day/Father's Day Honor Gift

The enclosed gift of ☐ \$500 ☐ 250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other is in (please circle) honor or memory of my parent(s).

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Given on the occasion of: ☐ Mother's Day ☐ Father's Day

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### This Mother's Day promote The Baptist Children's Village

Please send me the following materials to help promote The Baptist Children's Village in my church on Mother's Day

- ☐ Baptist Record Posters
- ☐ Bulletins
- ☐ Bulletin Inserts
- ☐ Offering Envelopes
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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Gore Springs Church, Gore Springs

Gore Springs Church, Gore Springs, set a church record for giving to Annie Armstrong this year. The goal of \$750 was exceeded with more than \$1,000 being pledged by the time children, youth, and young adults finished their Arnold and Daisey Dryer Walk-a-thon for North American Missions.

The church gave a total of \$2,764.10. Roy D. Hawkins is pastor.

Beulah Church, Union, ordained Jason Howell to the ministry February 29. He has been called as assistant pastor to Amariah Church, Union, where his grandfather, Leonard Howell is pastor.

Pictured (from left) are Ken White, pastor, Howell and his wife, and Leonard Howell.

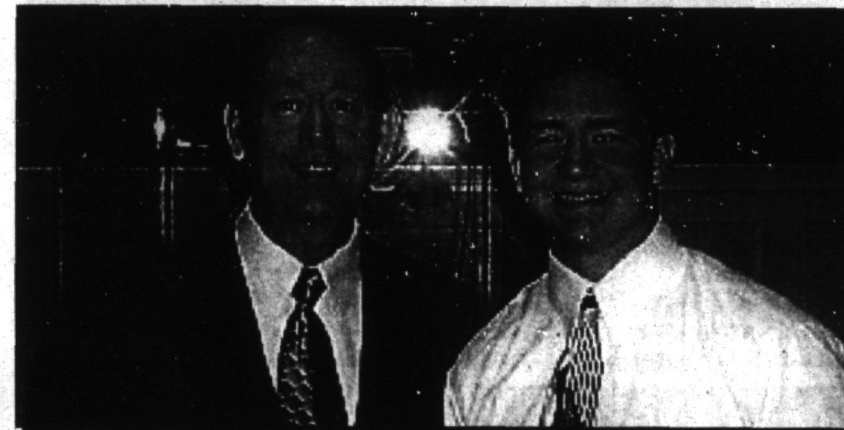
Liberty Church, Waynesboro, granted a license to preach to Matthew Olson March 21. Pictured (from left) are Phillip Gandy, and Olson. To invite Olson to your church, he may be reached at (601) 735-1032 or (601) 735-2597/(601) 671-0860.

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, held revival services March 28-31 with 20 professions of faith and one rededication. Danny Lanier,

Little Rock, preached and Clyde Sellers, Poplarville, presented music. Shannon D. Marshall is pastor.

New Hope Church, Sumrall, exceeded their goal of \$1,000 for Annie Armstrong offering. The amount collected was \$1,265.22.

Courtland Church, Courtland, will hold Youth Quake May 9-12 at 6:30 p.m. Paul Middleton will bring the message with music by Seven. For more information, call (662) 563-8513.



Phillip Gandy and Matthew Olson



White, pastor; The Howells and L. Howell

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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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## COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Jerry Rankin, president of the IMB and an alumnus of Mississippi College, spoke in the chapel service for MC students March 30. His message, delivered a few days after the missionary killings in Iraq,

received a standing ovation. Pictured (from left) are Lee Royce, MC president, and Rankin.

Chaplain (Capt.) Paul D. Wilbourn, West Point, gradu-

ated from the Army's 13 week Chaplain Officer Basic Course April 9. He was one of 76 graduates to receive a diploma from Chaplain (Col.) Joseph Batluck, assistant commandant of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C. Wilbourn has been assigned as a battalion chaplain for the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Winters School of Music at William Carey College advanced to the final round of competition at the Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing held recently at the University of Southern Mississippi. Shanna Carey, Stephanie Crumley, Bradley Stephens, Sharnwanika Cotton, and Sadie Magadan received awards from four different competition divisions in the vocal category.

Six students from the

### JUST FOR THE RECORD

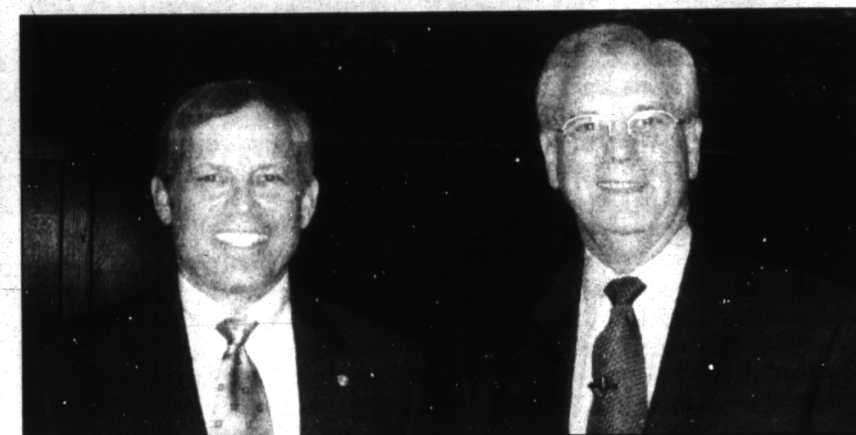


Daniel Humphreys and Jackie Spencer

Crestwood Church, Booneville, recently licensed Daniel Humphreys to preach. Pictured (from left) are

Humphreys and Jackie Spencer.

Bethel Church, Holcomb, will honor William McDaniel, pastor, and his wife May 2 from 2-4 p.m. for 40 years of service. Refreshments will be served. The public is welcome.



Lee Royce, MC president and Jerry Rankin



The McDaniels

### MISSISSIPPI POSITIONS

**CASTLEWOODS BAPTIST CHURCH** in Brandon, Miss., is seeking a mature Christian individual or couple to make a long-term commitment to serve as youth leader(s) on a bi-vocational basis. Please mail your resume to 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047 or email to: paula@castlewoods baptist.com.

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH** is in search for a part-time youth minister. Anyone interested, please send resume

to Community Baptist Church, 2490 Yorkville Road East, Columbus, MS 39702. Call (662) 327-5306.

**BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH** in Meridian, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Resumes should be sent to Minister of music search committee, Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301. For more information call (601) 644-3532 or (601) 644-3537.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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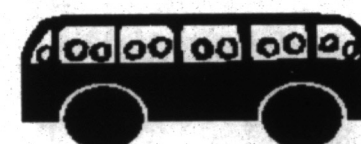
**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Trusting God

Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 John 2:1-11

By Patsy Foster

A young man stood to testify after a D. L. Moody evangelistic crusade. Not knowing much Christian doctrine, he concluded his simple remarks with, "I'm not quite sure-but I'm going to trust, and I'm going to obey." The phrase caught the ear of Daniel Towner who was in the congregation. He jotted the phrase down and later composed the music, while John Sammis wrote the words to our beloved hymn, "Trust and Obey" ([www.cyberhymnal.org](http://www.cyberhymnal.org)).

In Proverbs 3:5-6, we are exhorted to trust in the Lord with all of our heart and not lean to our own understanding. When trouble comes, it is not easy to affirm wholeheartedly our trust

in the Lord. John Gill in his Exposition of the Bible said that we should trust God in times of affliction, temptation, and darkness for He has all power and strength to help, and His love, grace, and mercy move Him to do so. How do we get past the questions and doubts of our understanding? One excellent way is by recalling God's faithfulness to us and to others in times past. Journals recording the faithfulness of God in our lives serve as reminders and are rich, precious legacies to leave our children and grandchildren. To acknowledge Him in all of our ways, we must also take the thoughts and doubts that torment us and go to the Word of God to get His perspective. The Lord our God is the originator of



Foster

a "word in season." He knows just what will comfort our hearts, giving us the direction that we need to enable us to trust and obey.

However, we don't always succeed at trusting the Lord and resisting the temptation to lean to our own understanding. When we fail to do so and feel miserable and condemned because of our failure, we must remember that we have an advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous One, who comes before the Father in our behalf, by virtue of His sacrifice that covers all of our sins and shortcomings forever and ever.

How do we get past habitual failure and learn to keep God's commands? It's not perfect people who are able to keep God's commands, but people surrendered to do His will. If we love Him, our heart's desire will be to keep His commandments. If we love Him, we will be quick to

run back to Him for cleansing when we fail. His commandments are not grievous or burdensome (1 John 5:3). They are doable, by the power of the Holy Spirit who enables us to walk as he walked. One day an acquaintance visited a handicapped child. The child asked the person, "Are you a Christian?" She replied, "I hope so," to which he questioned, "Do you walk as He walked?" How do we know we're walking as He walked? If we keep His commandments, we show our love for Him. Jesus made a very special promise in John 14: 21 - "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

When we walk in the love of the Lord, there will be a natural outflowing of love toward others. Love is longsuffering, not short-tempered. It is kind, not envious or hateful. We cannot

harbor hate in our hearts toward anyone, regardless of what they have done to us, and be in right relationship with the Lord. Hatred is like a cancer of the soul, eating away at us until eventually we turn on those we love most. John said in 1 John 3 that he who says he is in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness, stumbling about not knowing where he goes. In contrast is the one who walks in love and obedience. His path is full of light, and he doesn't cause others to stumble. The Lord is directing his path, and he is a channel of blessing to others.

"But we never can prove the delights of His love until all on the altar we lay; for the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

Foster is member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Set a Good Example"

II Timothy 3:1-17

By Bobby McKay

I want to tell you about someone that is very special to me. Her name is Mary Lawrence McKay. You will notice that we share the same last name. There is a good reason for that. She is my daughter. To avoid any debate or confusion, the facts need to be stated and the record cleared. Mary Lawrence is without a doubt, the most beautiful baby in the world. Feel free to disagree but we both know that your arguments are useless against her big blue eyes and blonde hair.

She is almost 18 months old and is as smart as she is cute. I see a Mississippi Baptist College in her future! I know what some of you are thinking. You are looking at my picture and saying that there is no way a beautiful baby could be a

product of mine. Let me be totally honest with you: she looks like her mother. Those of you that know my wife Amy will say thank heavens for that. My wife and I both prayed for a healthy baby girl and the Lord in His wonderful love answered our prayers.

One thing Amy and I didn't fully realize until lately is how much of an example we are to her. Day and night, good days and bad, she is always watching and listening. That is a pretty awesome thought. Her vocabulary, her body language, and even her laugh are shaped at this early stage of life by the example we display to her.

In this week's lesson Paul shares with young Timothy and with us the importance of a good example. Like a young child, there is someone looking up to



McKay

you. You are the best Christian someone knows. That thought should stir within our hearts humility and devotion to God.

#### I. WHAT NOT TO MODEL (3:1-9)

In this passage Paul goes through a rather lengthy and scary list of offenses to God. In verse one it says these things will occur in the last days. Put this paper down right now and read verses two through four. You should see something all too familiar about these things described. If verses two, three, and four doesn't describe our world today nothing in the Bible does. In verse five it tells us to avoid these people.

Do you realize that we all are examples? The question is whether or not we are modeling something positive or negative. When people see you and me do they see Jesus or do they see a person that should be avoided? Folks, the Bible is very clear here. We are in this

world but we are not to be of this world. While not always easy, being a positive influence in your community is a key component in reaching people with the Gospel.

#### II. WHAT PAUL MODELED (3:10-13)

Paul is not boasting in this passage. He is simply reminding Timothy that God's way is always the best way. Paul's boasting is in the Lord. In verse 11 he shares with us that he experienced persecutions and sufferings in various locations, but he states that the Lord rescued him from them all! If we are fully obedient to God and model Christ-like behavior, God will take care of us. I am not saying that you won't have heartaches or tribulations, but God will cradle you in His arms in your time of need. Paul even tells us in verse 12 that if we strive to live a godly life, we can expect persecution.

#### III. WHAT WE ARE TO MODEL (3:14-17)

Paul closes out this chapter

with a challenge to us all. I am afraid that Southern Baptists talk more about believing the Bible is true than actually reading the Bible. Verse 16 sums it up for me as a Christian and as a pastor. It reads, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness" (HCSB). May we never waste our breath arguing whether or not the Bible is the Word of God. Verse 16 is crystal clear. Our belief and conviction that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible, and inspired Word of God doesn't make it a fact. What makes it a fact is that God says so, not our crafty speech or arguments.

My friends, you are an example. Do you point others to the truth of God's Word or do you leave them guessing? Anyone can listen to a sermon, what the world needs is to see one in action.

McKay is pastor of Spring Hill Church, Waterford.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include

the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital

printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp,

and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-4330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcch.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcch.org)

THE BAPTIST  
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## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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LAUC TMKJ QUTET ECLZ

LAUG, PAUC DU AMIU

XKVLUIJ EW LAUJ TZC ZV

GMC, LAUC TAMXX DU

RCZP LAML K MG AU,

MCJ LAML K JZ CZLAKCB

ZV GDTUXV; FEL MT GD

VMLAUJ AMLA LMEBAL

GU, K TWUMR LAUTU

LAKCBT.

QZAC UKBAL:  
LPUCLDUKBAL

Clue: Q = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 22:69

# Chapman takes issue with NOBTS remarks

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) President Morris H. Chapman expressed sadness and concern over the content and tenor of remarks by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) President Chuck Kelley and trustees during their April 14 meeting in New Orleans.

"The substance is incorrect and considering that it was a trustee meeting of a Southern Baptist seminary, the spirit was extremely surprising," Chapman said in a statement to Baptist Press.

The Executive Committee has asked Southern Baptist entities under its control to legally designate the Executive Committee as the "sole member" of the institutions' governing bodies, essentially meaning that Executive Committee could override the trustees of an institution if Executive Committee members deemed doing so to be in the best interest of the entity.

Every institution under Executive Committee control has agreed to the "sole member" request, with the exception of New Orleans Seminary. Kelley and several members of the school's



Kelley



Chapman

trustee body have expressed concerns about concentrating absolute control of the seminary in the hands of the EC.

NOBTS trustees complained in their meeting of a "disinformation campaign" from the Executive Committee toward the seminary. Kelley said though unintentional, the push to adopt sole membership "is a step in that direction and a step away from historic Southern Baptist practice."

"The unwarranted and unjustified characterizations that cast aspersions upon the

integrity and credibility of the SBC Executive Committee is a sad day for Southern Baptists, one of the saddest since I have been at the Executive Committee," Chapman continued. "I am grieved for Southern Baptists and the Executive Committee and earnestly pray there will be no escalation of the spirit of confrontation evident in the New Orleans seminary trustee meeting."

"The Executive Committee and its staff have endeavored for seven long years to get the New

Orleans board to engage this process," Chapman stated. "We have spent time, energy and money in an effort to help the seminary do what every other entity did years ago in acting to preserve the polity and the interests of the Southern Baptist Convention. We have demonstrated that the suspicions raised against 'sole membership' (that it violates Baptist polity, or will not work under Louisiana law, or that it conveys power to the Executive Committee) to be absolutely false. We have done so in a spirit of openness. The seminary trustees have received Executive Committee documents that support the concept of sole membership, but they have been unwilling to respond in kind."

Chapman voiced appreciation that Kelley "has stated that the seminary would name the SBC as the sole member once the Convention in its annual meeting has adopted a motion requesting it. The Executive Committee is grateful for this pledge and looks forward to a decision by the Southern Baptist Convention as early as possible in order that Southern Baptists will not be distracted from fulfilling the Great Commission to the ends of the earth."

## Missouri Baptists continue fight over institutions

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP) — Attorneys for the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) have appealed the dismissal of a lawsuit filed by the convention against five breakaway institutions, and convention messengers will be asked to authorize the use of Cooperative Program funds to pay for the ongoing lawsuit.

Lawyers representing the convention and a group of convention-affiliated churches filed a notice of appeal on April 16 to the Missouri Western District Court of Appeals in Kansas City. The appeal will challenge Cole County Circuit Judge Thomas Brown's March 11 dismissal of the suit against the agencies, as well as three related rulings.

In the March dismissal, Brown ruled that the convention's Executive Board and the six churches had no standing to bring legal action against Missouri Baptist University, the Baptist Home retirement-home system, the Missouri Baptist Foundation, Windermere Baptist Conference Center, or the Word & Way newspaper.

Brown concluded the convention legally consisted only of individual messengers rather than churches or elected representatives. He later re-affirmed that ruling and denied the convention the opportunity to amend its lawsuit to include a group of individual messengers as plaintiffs.

In 2000 and 2001, trustees of the five agencies changed the organizations' charters to begin electing their own successors. Previously, the institutions' trustees had been nominated by an MBC committee and elected by messengers to the convention's annual meeting.

The changes in the agencies' charters were made after a successful campaign by Missouri Baptists aligned with the Conservative Resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention to gain control of the convention's nominating process and thereby steer institutions in a more conser-

vative direction. Leaders of the breakaway institutions cited the political issues, as well as liability concerns, in making the decision to switch to self-perpetuating boards. Convention messengers voted in 2002 to sue the institutions, demanding the agencies' trustee boards be returned to convention control. Because the MBC itself is an unincorporated association under Missouri law, convention leaders decided to name the MBC Executive Board and six sympathetic MBC-affiliated churches as the plaintiffs. Messengers removed funding for the agencies from the convention budget. However, the MBC Executive Board voted April 13 to place the five institutions back in the convention's Cooperative Program budget for 2005. The new budget proposal will be presented to convention messengers for final approval at their annual meeting in October. According to a column posted on the convention website by Executive Director David Clippard, "These budget dollars will be given to them for operations needs only upon their return" to convention control. Clippard also said the funds could be used in the interim "to fund [the agencies'] return." — despite previous promises from convention leaders that Cooperative Program funds would not be used to fund the lawsuit. The proposal, according to the convention-supported Pathway newsletter, would include \$1.2 million in the first year. The convention has already spent approximately one million dollars on the lawsuit. The funding for the legal fees initially came from convention reserve funds. At their 2003 annual session, convention messengers approved a one million dollar line of credit to continue funding the lawsuit, as well as the establishment of a Missouri Baptist Agency Restoration Fund separate from the convention's budget.

The fund was intended as a place for individuals and churches to contribute

designated gifts for waging the legal battle over and above their regular convention giving. However, according to a document distributed at the April 13 meeting, only \$3,779 had been contributed to the fund in the first three months of 2004. In his column, Clippard urged churches to contribute more to the fund. "If 500 churches and individuals would give \$100 to \$150 per month to this fund, it would provide all the legal resources we need," he wrote. "It is time for everyone to be part of the battle. I would urge every MBC church to consider in its next business meeting a 24-month commitment to some level of financial support for this Agency Restoration Fund."

Also at the April 13 meeting, reporters representing Word & Way — which had been the official MBC newspaper for more than 100 years before the newspaper's trustees removed it from convention control — were ejected from a second Executive Board meeting. At a previous meeting, convention president David Tolliver excluded Word & Way from covering the open meeting, citing the fact that the paper and the convention were involved in litigation. By the April 13 meeting, the convention's lawsuit had been dismissed and the convention had not yet filed its appeal. According to Word & Way Editor Bill Webb, that meant, in his determination, that Tolliver's rule did not apply on April 13.

Webb said he agreed to leave "under protest." Robert Cox, chairman of the newspaper's board, later sent a letter of complaint to convention officers. "It would seem your rationale for exclusion was without merit for this meeting," Cox wrote. Cox also noted that the Word & Way staffers are members of Missouri Baptist Convention churches and thus should never have been excluded from otherwise open Executive Board sessions.